



Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council

6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 300 • Columbia, MD 21046

Minutes of the February 21, 2018 Meeting

North Laurel Community Center – 9411 Whiskey Bottom Rd – Laurel, MD 20723

Attendance:

Appointed Members/Designees: Jacqueline Scott, Dr. Barbara Sands, Suellen Seigel, Nancy Voight, Andrea Raid, Sheriff Bill McMahon, Kelly Ruby, Eric Kruhm, Leslie Petak, Dawn Tinker, Wendy Schoonmaker, Janet Paul, Charlee Borg, Ayesha Holmes and Mark Breaux.
Department of Community Resources and Services Staff: Sidney Ford, Valerie Harvey, Carla Lunn and Cara Baumgartner.

Guests: Sgt. James Daly, Diann Rocha, Beth Halley, Lisa Rhodes, Farheen Sheik, Blossom Brackman, DFC Kalle James-Wintjen and DFC Jennifer Pepper.

Meeting called to order at 9:10 am by Jacqueline R. Scott, Chairperson

Agenda:

- **Jacqueline Scott welcomed everyone to the Human Trafficking Prevention Coordination Council meeting**
- **Sidney Ford, Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinator, administered an informal human trafficking quiz**
 - The quiz was given to understand participants' perceptions regarding human trafficking. Reviewing answers as a group helped everyone speak more of a common language regarding the topic. It also helped overcome possible misapprehensions as to what human trafficking is, and what it is not.
- **Ayesha Holmes, Director, Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, presented information on Grassroots' extensive human services programming**
 - 800 new people have been seen at the Day Resource Center this year, which is double last year's census. There are an estimated 240 homeless people living outside, in cars or other places not meant for human habitation, in Howard County. Roughly 200 people a year use Grassroots' homeless shelter services.
 - Grassroots has protocols they follow when they believe an adult or unaccompanied youth could be a victim of human trafficking.
 - If the person is under 18 years old, the Department of Social Services is notified.
 - For an adult, police are contacted.
 - They observe potential clues such as hypersexuality; adults claiming to be looking for children that they do not appear to be related to, or if they are related, that the person seems to fear; signs of youth having an "older boyfriend" with whom they are communicating extensively on their cellphone or by other means (to name a few examples).

- **Allies' Updates**

- HopeWorks has opened their third transitional house for domestic violence victims, which is available for women and men. Clients can stay up to a year in their housing program.
- Samaritan Women has a two-year program for human trafficking victims and are currently serving eight women. Two women recently celebrated their earning GEDs in a ceremony on-site; the graduates are also enrolling in college. The group applauded the women's outstanding efforts.
- Centennial High School will have a human trafficking info session for students on April 18th, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Sidney and DFC James-Wintjen will participate.
- Ho Co AGAST, a long-standing human trafficking prevention advocacy group, introduced themselves. They have been covering areas of Howard County known for human trafficking with fliers that have numbers victims can call for help.
- The Howard County Police Department continues to expand its response to the crime of human trafficking.
- Sidney Ford recently trained Howard County School Nurses on signs of human trafficking in school-aged students and what to do related to the identification and need for services.

- **Jacqueline Scott's Closing Message**

- We want to move to substantive work in this Council. We all think we know things, and we do, but what other things don't we know? Who do we want to bring in as presenters? Where are places we can send youth, seniors, and others when we find out they are being trafficked? What providers do we have to respond, and what else do we need? How do we expand how we help? We need to work toward a standard set of tools for everyone fighting human trafficking. Think of what the Council can be and how we can all work together to help.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am by Ms. Jacqueline R. Scott, Chair

Next meeting: March 21, 2018 9:00 am – 10:30 am

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Minutes submitted by Cara Baumgartner